

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 17, 2012

The Hon. Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel-Rios Federal Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

On behalf of the millions of Americans who work in the infrastructure and construction sectors, we are greatly encouraged by EPA's recent proposed rule relating to National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Portland cement, pursuant to the federal court's decision in Portland Cement Association v. EPA, 665 F.3d 177 (D.C. Cir. 2011).

The proposed rule includes several provisions that will improve air quality while preserving jobs. We especially welcome EPA's proposal to provide cement manufacturers an additional two years to comply with the proposed revised NESHAP, up to September 2015. Because this aspect of the proposal will be crucial to save high quality manufacturing jobs as cement makers recover from the steepest economic downturn since the 1930s, we strongly urge EPA to issue a final rule that includes the two year reset for compliance time. EPA's willingness to work toward achievable standards, within the proposal addressing particulate matter (PM), is another key aspect of the proposal which will improve industry's ability to comply and make investments in the proper technology. This will help establish a climate of business certainty, which is essential to maintain environmental stewardship.

Cement manufacturers are continually working to identify innovative ways to improve plant operations and implement state-of-the-art technologies to minimize emissions, promote a safe workplace, and improve energy efficiency while providing high quality jobs for our constituents. Again, we encourage you to work diligently to finalize a NESHAP for Portland cement that will provide manufacturers the necessary time to meet the new standards.

Sincerely,



Rep. Charles W. Dent (PA-15)
Cement Caucus Co-Chair



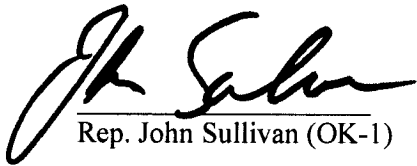
Rep. Mike Ross (AR-4)
Cement Caucus Co-Chair

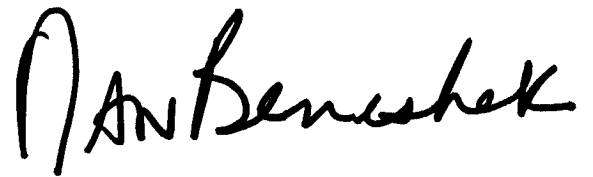


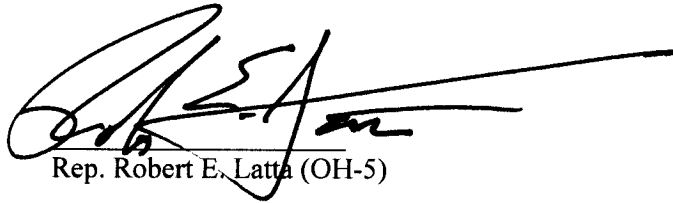
Rep. Tim Holden (PA-17)

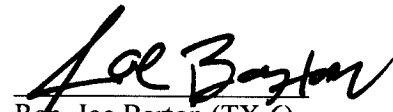


Rep. Adam Kinzinger (IL-11)

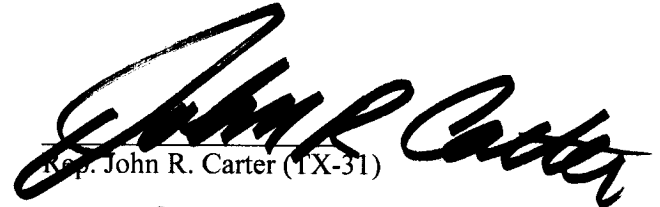

Rep. John Sullivan (OK-1)

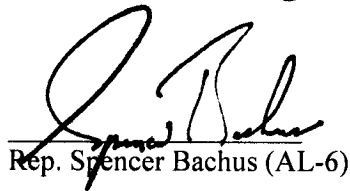

Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-1)

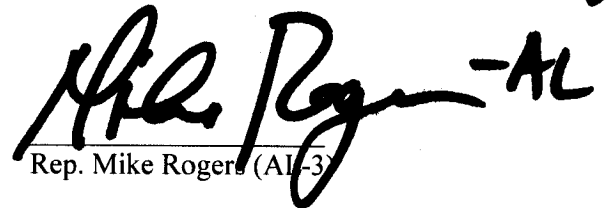

Rep. Robert E. Latta (OH-5)

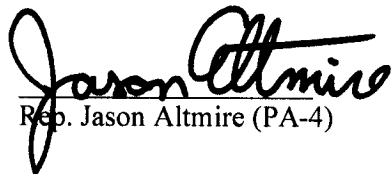

Rep. Joe Barton (TX-6)



Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-2)


Rep. John R. Carter (TX-31)


Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL-6)


Rep. Mike Rogers (AL-3)


Rep. Jason Altmire (PA-4)


Rep. Mark S. Critz (PA-12)


Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO-8)


Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX-24)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT - 4 2012

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Joe Barton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

Thank you for your letter of August 17, 2012, co-signed by 15 of your colleagues, to Administrator Lisa Jackson regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule on the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Portland Cement. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

In your letter you request that the EPA issue a final rule that includes a two year reset for the NESHAP rule compliance deadline. We appreciate your views on this matter. We will take your comments into consideration as we finalize the Portland Cement rule.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202)564-2095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy", written over a horizontal line.

Gina McCarthy
Assistant Administrator